

helping it gain priority with government and industry groups. Thus far, response to the campaign has been generally positive, with government agencies and industry agreeing on the importance of the issue and cooperating to determine what steps need to be taken to test chemicals and make the data available to the public.

The Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA), an industry organization that represents most of the 100 companies that were contacted by the EDF, has been active in discussions with the EDF and the EPA. The EDF actions were "favorably received," says Mort Mullins, vice president for regulatory affairs at the CMA. "We agreed with EDF that progress toward getting the OECD/SIDS data [on the chemicals] has not been achieved."

However, Mullins says that a CMA study conducted after the EDF released its findings indicates that there are data available for 47% of the chemicals, rather than the 29% that the EDF found. The CMA included information in its study that was not accessible by the EDF because certain databases containing such information are not currently available to the public.

Mullins says the CMA is conducting another in-depth audit of its databases to determine what chemicals have been tested. The group will then determine which steps need to be taken to compile existing information and put it into a format that will be accessible by the public. For chemicals that have not been tested for health effects, the CMA plans to oversee a testing process, divvying up the chemicals between different companies, Mullins says.

The EPA has also been auditing its databases to determine what data are available. Once chemicals that need to be tested have been identified, the EPA will work to ensure that they are tested, perhaps through regulation. "We have the authority under TSCA to require testing," says Charlie Auer, director of the chemical control division of the EPA. "We haven't written a rule, but we've been thinking about that. In the past, we've relied on voluntary efforts by companies. The problem in the U.S. is that we need to get more companies involved. One way to do that is through regulation."

Meanwhile, the OECD is examining the issue from a global perspective. So far, there has been a lot of action in a short period of time. "The key is going to be to go from the talk stage to the action stage," says David Roe, senior attorney for the EDF. He says the EDF plans to serve as a watchdog on the issue, adding, "We're in it for the long haul."

## EHPnet

### Doing a World of Good

Cooperation is crucial to meeting the environmental, resource, and development challenges of global significance for the future. The World Resources Institute (WRI) is an independent center dedicated to working with governments and private organizations to face these challenges.

The mission of the WRI, which celebrated its 15-year anniversary last year, is to teach and inspire human society to live in ways that protect the earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. The WRI conducts policy research and technical assistance on global environmental and development issues.

The WRI is accessible on-line through its site located at <http://www.wri.org>. The home page contains links that provide general information about the WRI, as well as information about its programs.

A link to Business and Technology provides information about two programs through which the WRI is working with industry on environmental issues. The WRI's Program in Technology and the Environment works with industry to develop environmentally efficient technologies, while the Management Institute for Environment and Business (MEB) works with universities, graduate schools, and corporations to integrate environmental issues into their educational programs. A link to the Business-Environment Learning and Leadership Program (BELL) tells how the MEB works with professors to enhance curricula, host seminars and conferences, and develop partnerships between universities and communities.

Another WRI program that works to involve businesses in environmental issues is the Climate Protection Initiative. Through this program, the WRI partners with businesses to identify "safe, climate-sound" government policies and corporate strategies. The What's New link on the home page offers an example of a partnership—the "Safe Climate, Sound Business" project—which is described under the WRI and General Motors Dialogue on Climate Change link. This collaboration between the WRI and General Motors will identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the economy.

The WRI also has an active division that works to protect human health, called the Program in Health, Environment, and Development (HED), which can be found via the Health and Environment link on the home page. HED investigates the impact of factors such as climate change and pollution on human health and seeks to develop policies to reduce human risk. Found on the HED page is information about a report, *The Hidden Benefits of Climate Policy: Reducing Fossil Fuel Use Saves Lives Now*, which is the first study to look at the global short-term health impact of fossil fuel consumption projects. The study says that by implementing climate policies now, approximately 8 million deaths resulting from particulate air pollution and the buildup of greenhouse gases could be avoided in the next two decades.

The WRI is also active in education through the Environmental Education Project, which is found under the link to Environment and Education. This program works with educational groups in the United States, Mexico, India, Europe, Australia, Vietnam, and Japan to develop and implement teaching materials about the environment including videos, teachers' guides, slide presentation sets, and computer software.

Information about programs in Africa and Asia can be found via links to the Policy Consultative Group for Africa and the Resources Policy Support Initiative, which works with Southeast Asia. These groups supply information about sustainable development and management of natural resources. The Forest Resources link provides information about the Forest Frontiers Initiative (FFI), a project that works to promote stewardship of forests. From this page, a link to Frontier News provides information such as news stories and statistics about forests around the world. A link from the FFI page to Business News contains information about another business/WRI partnership called the MacArthur Foundation-MEB/WRI Forestry Project, which works to expand the number of companies engaged in sustainable forestry, and to increase investment in sustainable forestry.

Other links from the WRI home page provide comprehensive information about issues such as biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, climate change, and global warming.



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